



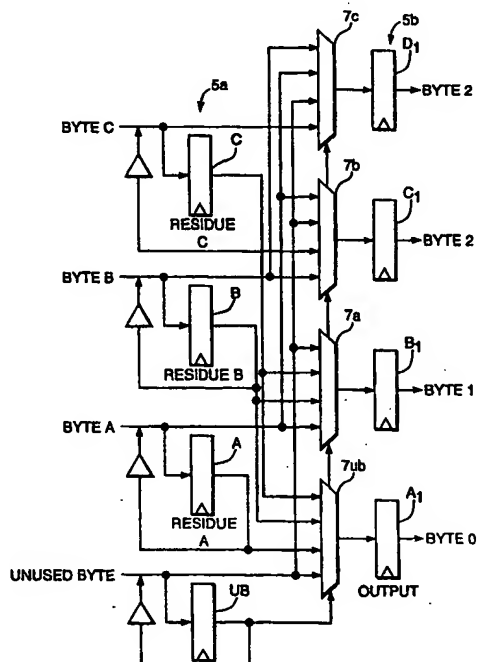
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(54) Title: **BYTE ALIGNMENT METHOD AND APPARATUS**

(57) Abstract

The method and apparatus correct for byte misalignment in a block of data. Switch means are set to perform a switching cycle depending on the amount of byte misalignment. Each word in the block is then transferred in accordance with the switching cycle, so that the bytes are aligned by the transfer, the aligned bytes then being stored. A first word in the data block is transferred into an input register where the amount of byte misalignment is determined in order to control the switching cycle, i.e. when the words are transferred to an output register. Also disclosed is a method of translating the encapsulation of a protocol labelled data block by removing an original header and original trailer from the data block, providing a new header and a new trailer and using the byte alignment method to determine any byte misalignment in the new header or trailer. The new header, new trailer and the original data block are transferred into storage with any necessary shift in the data block to compensate for the byte misalignment.



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